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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carrington Awarded Substance Abuse Prevention Assistance

Carrington, N.D. – This fall Carrington and the Healthy Communities Coalition of Carrington Health Center applied for assistance developing effective local substance abuse prevention efforts. In November, the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division notified the group they had been selected to become a Targeted Community.

"The Healthy Communities Coalition of Carrington Health Center is very excited about our city being chosen as a Targeted Community," said Jan Bakke, chair of the healthy communities group. "We look forward to the collaboration with the ND Department of Human Services and the Healthy Communities group in helping make Carrington an even healthier community!"

Community members will work with the State Prevention Team specialists to develop unique plans to address and prevent alcohol and other substance abuse. Carrington will receive guidance identifying goals, implementing effective strategies and evaluating community progress. Areas of focus will include education, workplace wellness, treatment, law enforcement, and public awareness.

"I am pleased to start working with Carrington and the Healthy Communities Coalition," said Crystal Kraft, community prevention specialist for the division. "It is great to see the progress that Carrington has already made surrounding substance abuse prevention. North Dakotans believe it is possible to reduce alcohol and drug problems through prevention¹."

Kraft is the department liaison to Carrington and the Healthy Communities group.

Applications were reviewed based on community needs, resources, funding, readiness, past and present prevention efforts, partnerships, and vision. These areas will all be identified when the planning process begins. The first meeting with the team was held on Jan. 13.

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¹ Of those surveyed, 92 percent of N.D. community members believe it is possible to reduce alcohol and drug problems through prevention (CRS, 2008).

